

Year book of dermatology 1988. Edited by A J Sober and T B Fitzpatrick. (Pp. 466; price us\$45.95 (29.95 to residents).) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, 1988.

Many of this journal's readers practise dermatology, and it behoves those, mainly in the United Kingdom, who do not specialise in skin diseases to know about dermatology. It is also to the detriment of genitourinary medicine that the role of dermatology in its practice has been played down in recent years. At the spring meeting of the Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases held in Lyons in 1971 I showed that a quarter of the patients seen in genitourinary practice had dermatological manifestations of disease. Since that time, with the advent of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease, a working knowledge of dermatology has become still more important.

It is a joy to delve into *Year book of dermatology 1988*. It is a reasonable price, and is cheaper still for residents. Although much of its contents are pure dermatology, at least half of the several hundred abstracts of papers will be useful to genitourinary physicians. Some very useful statistics given at the start of the book include those concerning the recent increase in syphilis in the United States of America compared with the decrease in other infectious diseases, except for AIDS, and three tables on various aspects of the statistics on AIDS in the USA and world wide to 1987. At the end of the book is a list of key review articles on dermatology related subjects including AIDS, disorders of pregnancy, fungal disorders, retinoids, and treatment.

In between are 22 chapters packed with well written abstracts, often with pithy comments on the paper selected. After one article entitled "Clinical and microbiological evaluation of 46 episodes of genital ulceration", selected from this journal, is the comment "to think that we can miss the diagnosis in one of three cases of genital ulceration is very humbling. This problem will become more severe as sexually transmitted diseases (STD) clinics are absorbed by infectious diseases services at the expense of dermatology. In the future, our trainees will become as inexperienced in diagnosing STD with skin manifestations as the non-dermatologists are."

In the section on treatment are some important papers on ketoconazole in fungal disorders, and permethrin in the treatment of lice and scabies. Drug eruptions are dealt with well. AIDS crops up not only in the chapter on viral infections, as do genital herpes and condyloma acuminata, but in

chapters such as those on vascular disorders ("Telangiectasis of the anterior chest in homosexual men." Fallon T, *et al.* *Ann Intern Med* 1986;105:679-82). Genital skin disorders, including Zoon's balanitis and lichen sclerosus et atrophicus, are very adequately covered.

I wouldn't have missed the *Year book of dermatology* for anything. It keeps one up to date and is marvellous for the sort of doctor who wants to know why cocaine abusers get thallium poisoning. Dear reader, look at page 137.

Michael Waugh

Review of tropical venereology. By O P Arya, A O Osoba, and F J Bennett. (Pp. 357; price not given.) 2nd ed. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1988.

A new edition of this book after an interval of eight years is welcome. As the authors note in the introduction, there is increased awareness of the size of the problem of sexually transmitted disease (STD) in developing countries. The wide range of different STDs, especially viral conditions, seen in the West is being increasingly recognised in the tropics. In addition, for various reasons the long recognised infections may present with advanced features that disappeared in the West with the advent of antimicrobials. For all these reasons the authors have extensively revised, and in some cases completely rewritten, their text. The total number of pages has increased from 228 to 357. The book is now organised into three sections — (1) basic considerations, (2) STD and related aspects of other conditions, and (3) control of STD. As well as introducing a chapter on viral infections, including a section on human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the section on syphilis is longer. The chapter on chlamydial and related disease has been expanded, and the cumbersome term "non-specific genital inflammatory disease" has been dropped in favour of the phrase "non-gonococcal and non-specific infections". The chapter on control of STD has been expanded, but the section on starting and developing a treatment service is retained. There is more on STD management in a rural medical centre. The appendices on managing common conditions, such as genital ulceration and urethral discharge in the absence of microscopy, are retained.

In part two, the clinical section, the striking feature is the space given to viral conditions and STD associated syndromes. In the former the section on HIV infection is up to date considering the rapid advances in our understanding of this virus and its effects.

There is a useful comprehensive table on managing opportunistic infections and related diseases. The chapter on STD related syndromes considers topics such as epididymitis and pelvic infection, which is useful for practitioners facing clinical problems who do not have time to peruse cross references, for example from chlamydial to gonococcal infection. As in the previous edition, there is emphasis on the wider differential diagnosis that must be considered in the tropics. Though the chapter on genital manifestation of some tropical conditions covers various topics, some practitioners might have welcomed a little more on the clinical problems presented by tuberculosis and amoebiasis. The quality of the black and white illustrations is somewhat better than in the first edition.

With the continuing increase in world wide air travel, everyone practising genitourinary medicine should be familiar with the varying problems of STDs and related conditions in all parts of the world. The second edition of this book fulfils an important need for everyone in this specialty.

R N Thin

AIDS pathogenesis and treatment. Edited by J A Levy. (Price \$119.5; 668 pages), New York: Marcel Dekker, 1989.

This is volume 44 in an Immunology Series edited by Noel Rose and Zdenek Trnka, and its aim is to provide up to date information about the pathogenesis of AIDS. The importance of AIDS is summarised well by Dr Rose in his introduction, where he comments that "the epidemic has been with us for less than a decade yet the extent of its spread and the degree of pathogenicity match those of the great epidemics of the past". The importance and scale of the epidemic is further exemplified in a foreword by Jonas Salk, where he notes that "a vast body of new knowledge has accumulated with unprecedented rapidity and one wonders what might have been our fate if the spread of HIV had occurred before the development of molecular biology".

This particular volume was edited by Jay Levy and, not surprisingly therefore, it has a very definite Californian bias with 29 of the 36 authors coming from the University of California at San Francisco. It contains 21 chapters covering subjects such as the molecular biology, detection, pathogenesis, immunology, and pathology of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. There is extensive coverage of epidemiology, Africa, Haiti, haemophilia, transfusion recipients, paediatrics, and heterosexual